Export of Spices

492. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern States of the country are major spices supplying States for export of spices;

(b) if so, the details of the contribution made by the Southern States in export of spices during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the steps the Spices Board and Government have taken to boost the production of spices in Southern States so that more exports of spices are made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not possible to provide State-wise export data of spices.

(c) Major steps taken by the Government/Spices Board to boost production of spices in the Southern States include production of quality planting material and its distribution, area expansion under various spices, replanting of uneconomic and diseased gardens, adoption/promotion of integrated pest, disease and nutrient management practices, irrigation and land development and transfer of technology through field demonstrations.

Opening of Nathula Pass for Commercial Purpose

493. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) by when the silk route through Nathula Pass in Sikkim would be fully opened for commercial purpose;

(b) whether Government would talk with China for opening the 4th commercial route via Arunachal Pradesh by Still Well Road; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No final date has yet been fixed for opening the silk route through Nathula Pass in Sikkim for commercial purpose.

(b) and (c) No proposal for opening of new trade routes with China in the Eastern Sector of India-China boundary is currently under consideration.

Trade between India and Singapore

494. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the anticipated increase in quantum of bilateral trade in monetary terms between India and Singapore after the Comprehensive Economic Co-operation Agreement, as compared to the trade during the last two years;

(b) whether new areas of trade would also emerge; and

(c) if so, the details of the areas and the anticipated trade potential for the coming two years in respect of new areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) India-Singapore Bilateral trade during the last two years has been as under:

(Value in US $ million)

Year	Exports	Imports	Total	Trade Balance
2001–02	972.31	1304.09	2276.40	-331.78
2002–03	1422.61	1433.51	2859.12	-10.90

(Source: DGCI &S, Calcutta)

It would, however, not be possible, at this stage, to anticipate the increase in quantum of bilateral trade after the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.

(b) and (c) Possibilities of Mutual Recognition Agreements in certain areas like electrical, electronics, telecom, food products, meat, etc. may help in furthering of bilateral trade. However, the exact trade potential for the coming two years in respect of the new areas cannot be anticipated at this stage.